



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Stroke Month**

**WHEREAS**, stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability and the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, killing over 134,000 people nationwide each year; and

**WHEREAS**, stroke prevalence is projected to increase by 24.9% between 2010 and 2030 and the direct medical costs for treating stroke are expected to increase by 238%, from \$28.3 billion in 2010 to \$95.6 billion by 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, warning signs of stroke include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; and sudden severe headache with no known cause; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are more aware of the risk factors and warning signs for stroke than in the past, but according to a recent survey, one-third of adults cannot identify any symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, the signature action for Stroke Month 2012 is to reach out to a young audience ages 10 to 17 through all music genres and social media activities to educate them about stroke, warning signs and risk factors and to engage them in sharing the messages with their parents and grandparents; and


**WHEREAS**, through the American Stroke Association's Power to End Stroke awareness campaign, the 31 Days of Power activity will empower African Americans to reduce their stroke risk, recognize warning signs, and respond quickly in a stroke emergency to reduce stroke in African Americans, who are at particularly high risk of the disease, and participation in a local 31 Days of Power event or activity is encouraged; and


**WHEREAS**, new and effective treatments have been developed to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effect of strokes, but much more research is needed; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim May, 2012 Stroke Month in Rhode Island and urge the state's citizens to recognize the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012

  
Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

  
A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State